

## **FARM INNOVATORS MEET 2016**

Realizing the importance of farmer led innovations and farm innovators in agricultural development, Agricultural Extension Division of IARI under the in house project entitled 'Maximizing Farm Profitability through Entrepreneurship Development and Farmer Led Innovations' organized one day FARM INNOVATORS MEET 2016 at Conference Hall, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Central Library, IARI, New Delhi on 27.09.2016. More than 80 Innovative Farmers attended the meet to come up with the framework for networking of farmers and research institution. Dr. A K Singh, DDG, Extension, ICAR was the Chief Guest and Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Director of the Institute presided over the meet.

Three technical sessions were held in the meet; first one, dealt with presentations by farmer innovator while in second session government promotional initiatives were discussed at length. 80 innovative farmers discussed at length the modalities to spread farmer led technologies during plenary session.

Director, IARI, Dr. Ravinder Kaur gave the inaugural address and Dr. J.P. Sharma, J.D. Extension emphasized the importance of creating agripreneurship among the farmers to maximize the income from farming. All the participants were welcomed by Dr. Premlata Singh, Head (Agri. Extension) and Dr. Rashmi Singh presented a brief introduction about the meet.

In the technical session on 'Farm Innovators Initiatives' the selected innovative farmers shared their experiences on the agripreneurship endeavor. This session was esteemed with multi disciplinary and multi dimensional topics like Marketing Innovations, Organic cultivation and optimum production, Floriculture, Diversified agriculture and Seed production.

Invitees from different governmental organizations also explained different initiative done by them to recognize and scale up the farm innovations. Dr. Ravinderjeet Singh (CEO, Agri- Innovate) gave an insight in to the ICAR Initiatives for Innovation Commercialization and know how on the works to stimulate, foster and catalyze innovation and capacity driven agricultural development through efficient use of innovations, human resource and capabilities of National Agricultural Research System (NARS). Dr. S.P. Kimothi, ADG (TC), said about various efforts and programme initiated by the Government to recognize Innovative Farmers. Dr. R.C. Agarwal (Registrar, PPVFRA) emphasized the importance of protecting the rights of farmers and plant breeders and the government initiatives in this regard. He also said that it is necessary to recognize and protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contribution made

at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of the new plant varieties. Dr. M.S. Nain, Sr. Scientist (Ext.) gave a brief note on the importance and impact of IARI Technology for Out-scaling. This session was followed by the Discussion on networking of farm innovators. Farmer participants actively participated and gave their suggestion and feed back for the improvement and further enhancement of the initiatives already taken.

Dr. J.P. Sharma, J.D.(Extension), IARI, emphasized the participatory action needed for farm entrepreneurship development. He also said that value chain development and market linkages need to be strengthened for the prosperity and betterment of the farmers, and time has come to change the strategy of extension teaching of farmers from 'how to produce' to 'how to market'.

Dr. A K Singh, DDG, Extension in his address expressed the delight to participate in the programme. He explained the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and also told that creating value chain development and agripreneurship among the farmers is the prime goal which agricultural extension needs to attain, which is only possible by the integration of research output and farmers innovations. He congratulated farmers, IARI, the project team for the big initiatives.

The programme concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. M.S. Nain, Senior Scientist and Co- PI of the project 'Maximizing Farm Profitability through Entrepreneurship Development and Farmer Led Innovations'.



*Farm Innovators Meet – 2016*



Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG(Ext), Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Director-IARI, Dr. J.P. Sharma, Joint Director (Ext) and Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Joint Director (Res) during the *Farm Innovators Meet- 2016*



Innovative farmers, discussing various farm innovations and their impact during *Farm Innovators Meet - 2016*